

# Unlocking the British Library's Sound Heritage

BAAC 2017

*Second life of heritage collections -  
management and use of  
audiovisual content*

11 October 2017

Richard Ranft, The British Library

# British Library's sound archive

- 7 million tracks
- Published / unpublished / broadcast
- from 1857
- ...to this morning
- many formats
- 120 years of non-stop listening



# Uses of the collection

- Academic research on music, dialects, etc
- Education
- Science
- Creative uses
- Exhibitions, broadcasts, film soundtracks
- Documenting cultures

# Russian Revolution exhibition, 2017



# DJ Yoda – live BBC radio broadcast at BL

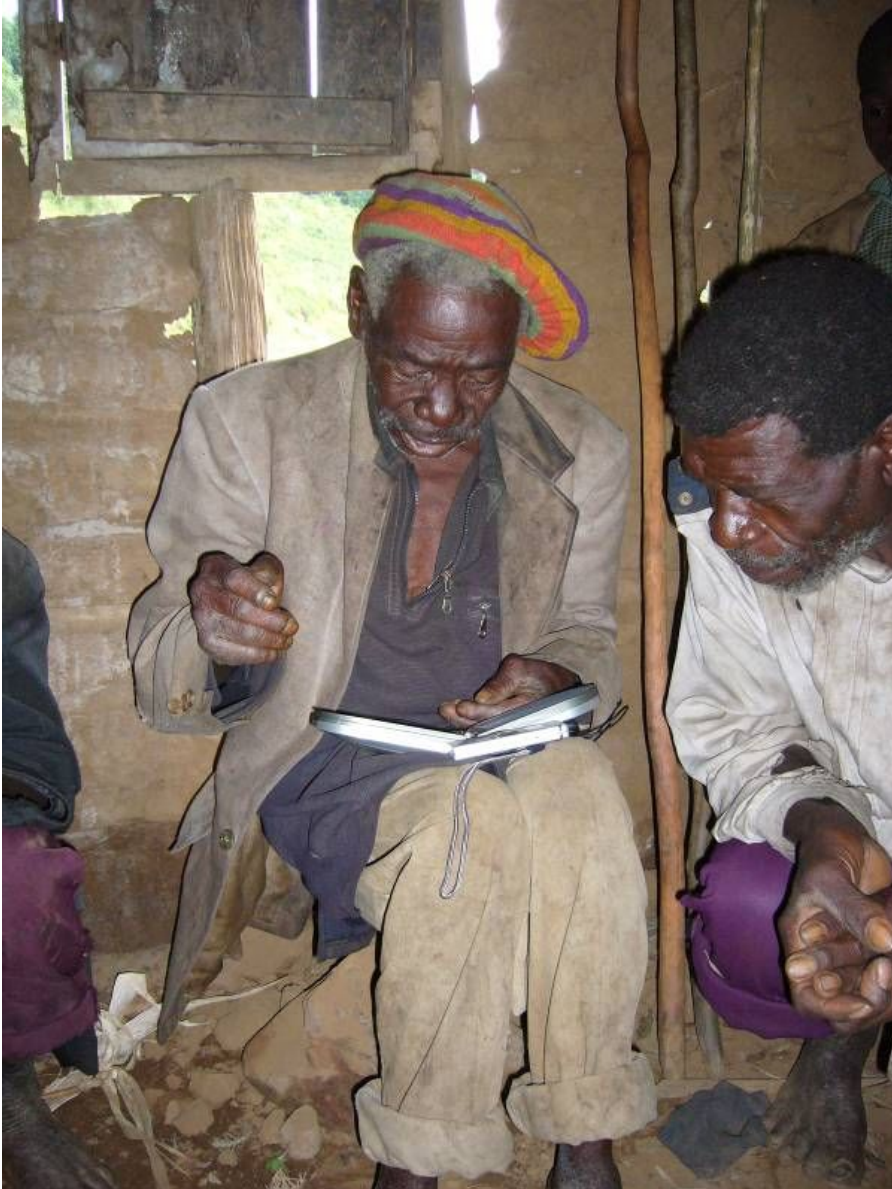




# Punk exhibition 2016

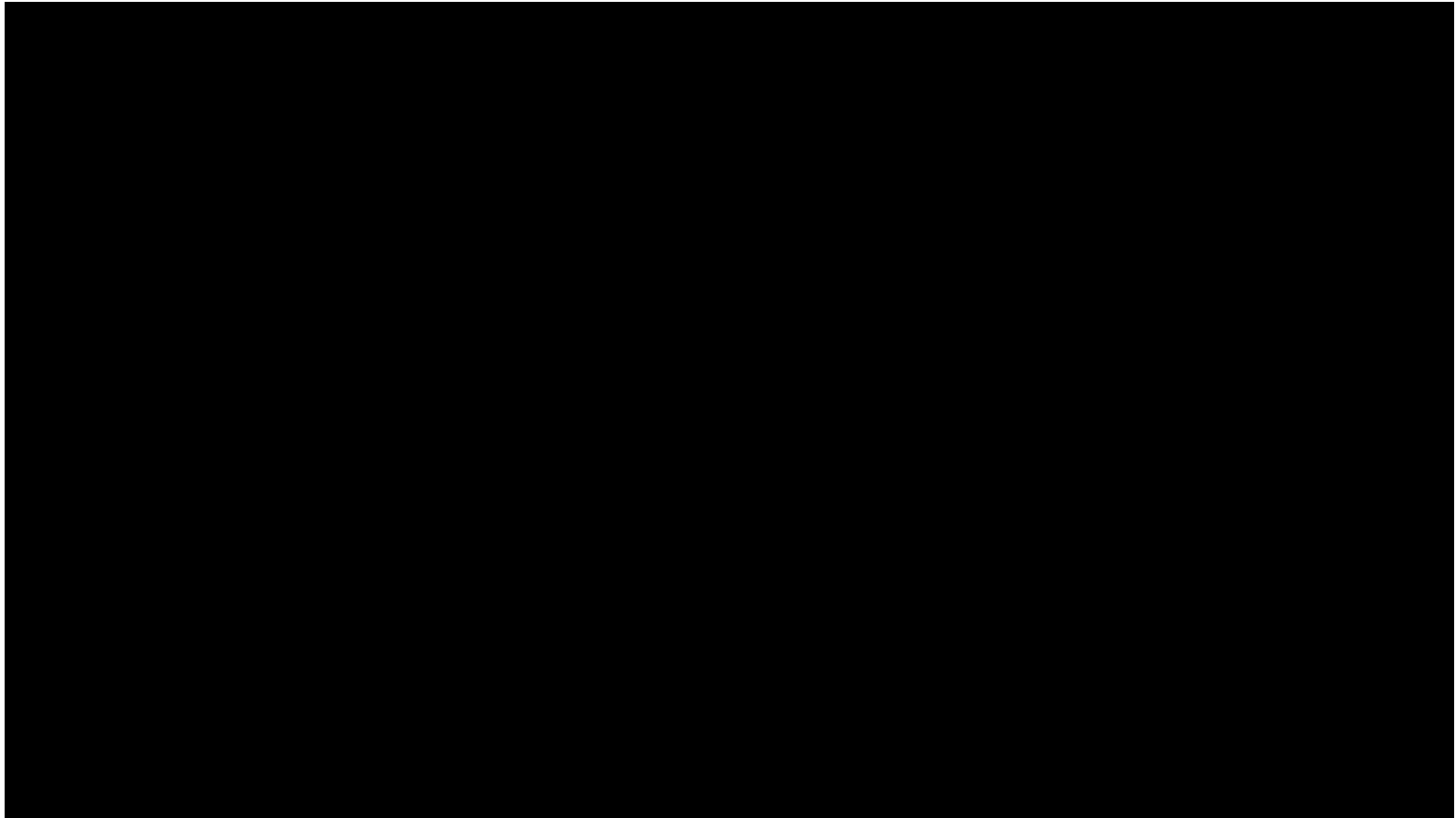


# Reconnecting / reviving cultures



- Batwa community in Uganda
- [Photo: Chris Kidd] Jeremiah Bunjagare listening to his own father performing

# Composer-in-residence



<https://youtu.be/5OqN5L5w-Ak?t=11s>



# Inspiration for graphic arts students



# Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

www.oxforddnb.com/public/dnb/32887.html

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Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

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People | Full text | References | Contributors | Images

**Doyle, Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan** (1859–1930), *writer*  
by Owen Dudley Edwards

- Early life and education
- First writings and medical practice
- Success with Holmes and the Strand Magazine
- War, social issues, and personal grief
- Champion of spiritualism and last years
- Posthumous reputation

## References

## See also

[Dame Jean Lena Annette Conan Doyle \(1912–1997\)](#)

## Other online resources

- [Bibliography of British and Irish history](#)
- [British Library, Sounds: early spoken word](#)
- [National Portrait Gallery](#)



**Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle (1859–1930)**, by Emil Otto Hoppé, 1912

**Doyle, Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan** (1859–1930), writer, was born at Edinburgh, on 22 May 1859, the eldest son and third of the nine children of John Doyle (1832–1893), an artist and draughtsman in the Edinburgh office of W & A Grieve, and Mary, *née* Foley (1838–1921), daughter of Catherine Foley, *née* Pack. Mary and John were immigrants from Ireland and were descended from landed Irish Catholic stock. They supplemented their meagre income by taking in lodgers, one of whom was John Doyle. In 1864 Charles's growing alcoholism led to a temporary breakup and the family was domiciled at Liberton Bank with sisters of the historiographer-royal Frederick Hill Burton, who influenced the young Doyle's development as historian and biographer.

## Early life and education

In 1867 the Doyle family reunited and inhabited the overcrowded tenement at 11 Sciennes Place, Edinburgh, the poorer half of a Newington cul-de-sac. Arthur was one of a street gang of boys, from whom he later evolved Sherlock Holmes's youth: the Street Irregulars. Funded by wealthy uncles, he attended Hodder preparatory school from 1868 to 1870 and then its senior school, Stonyhurst College, from 1870 to 1875. He was happy at Hodder, less happy at Stonyhurst, but developed talents as a story-teller and sportsman. Homesick for the love of Sir Walter Scott, possibly the greatest single literary influence on his work in general. The school grounds, a valley later reappeared in his fiction, notably the building, yew walk, observatory, and mists which transferred the terrain of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Loneliness was offset by a close friendship with a fellow Scot, James Watson, presumably the initial basis for the Holmes–Watson companionship. He spent a final year of schooling at Felton from 1875–6, which added to his remarkable ability to view the past from non-British perspectives. Yet he lost his religious faith while at Stonyhurst, although he later regained some of its attendant cults (guardian angels, the coronation) when fashioning his spiritualist faith.



# Oral histories: Food Stories radio programme

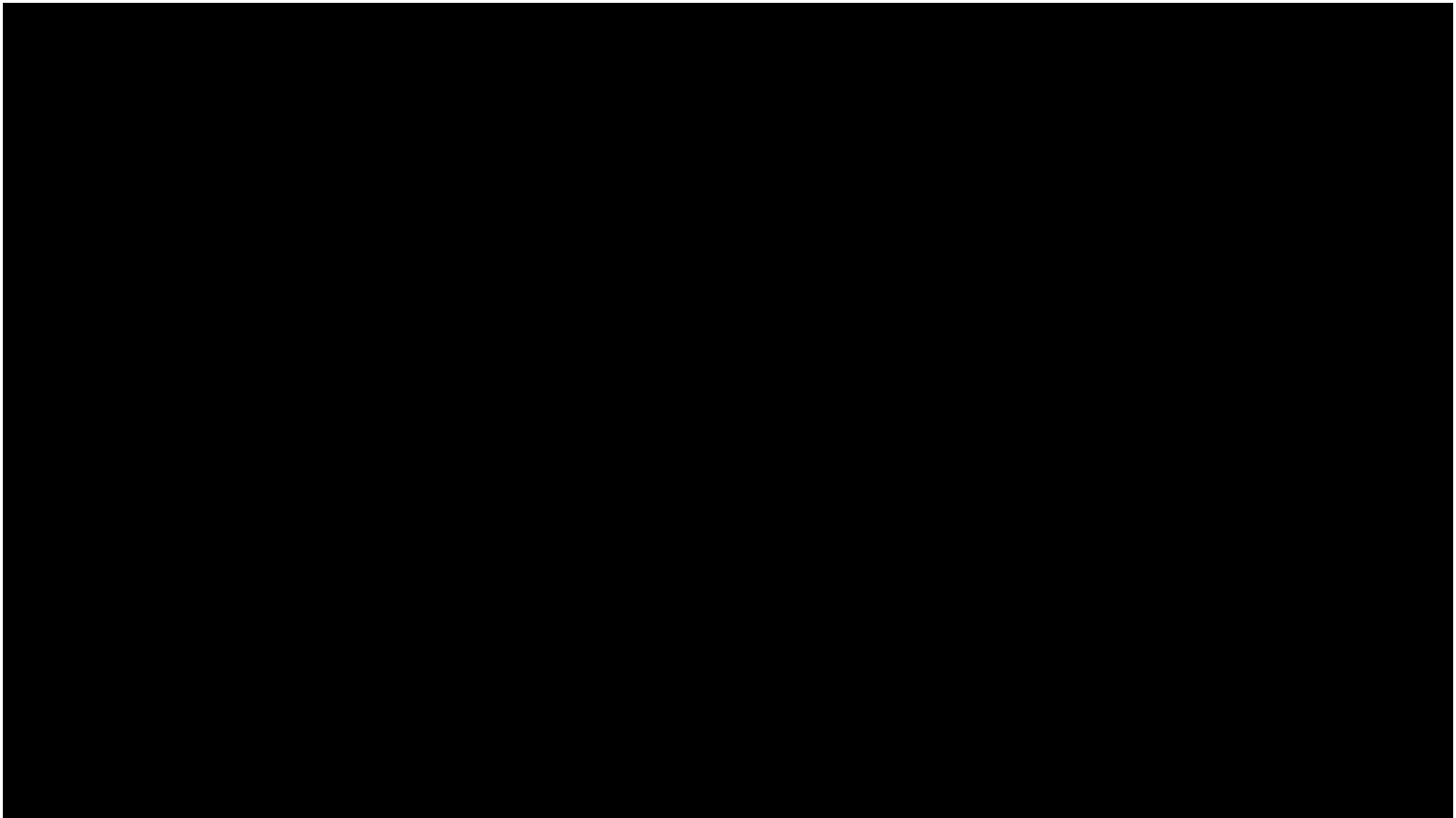


# Academic Research - dialects

- Janice and her grandson Jonathan in conversation:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p016p6sp>
- Spoken British National Corpus



# Artistic re-use



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bwx4uUnbV4>



# From these....



...to this

[Return to Home](#) / [Europeana Music](#) / [Results](#)

national library of latvia × | Add a search term



COLLECTIONS: Music × | AGGREGATOR: Europeana Sounds ×

## REFINE YOUR SEARCH

## COLLECTIONS

- All Items
- Music
- Art History

## MEDIA

- Sound (2,071)
- Only items with links to media

## CAN I USE IT?

- Free Re-use (2,071)

Show specific licenses ▾

## PROVIDING COUNTRY

## LANGUAGE

## AGGREGATOR

- Europeana Sounds (2,071)
- The European Library (6)

## INSTITUTION

1 - 12 of 2,071 results

Per page: 12



Have you seen the new grid layout? ×



Vīnes valsis



Ranāiņa polka



Enkurnieku polka



Tauriņu polka



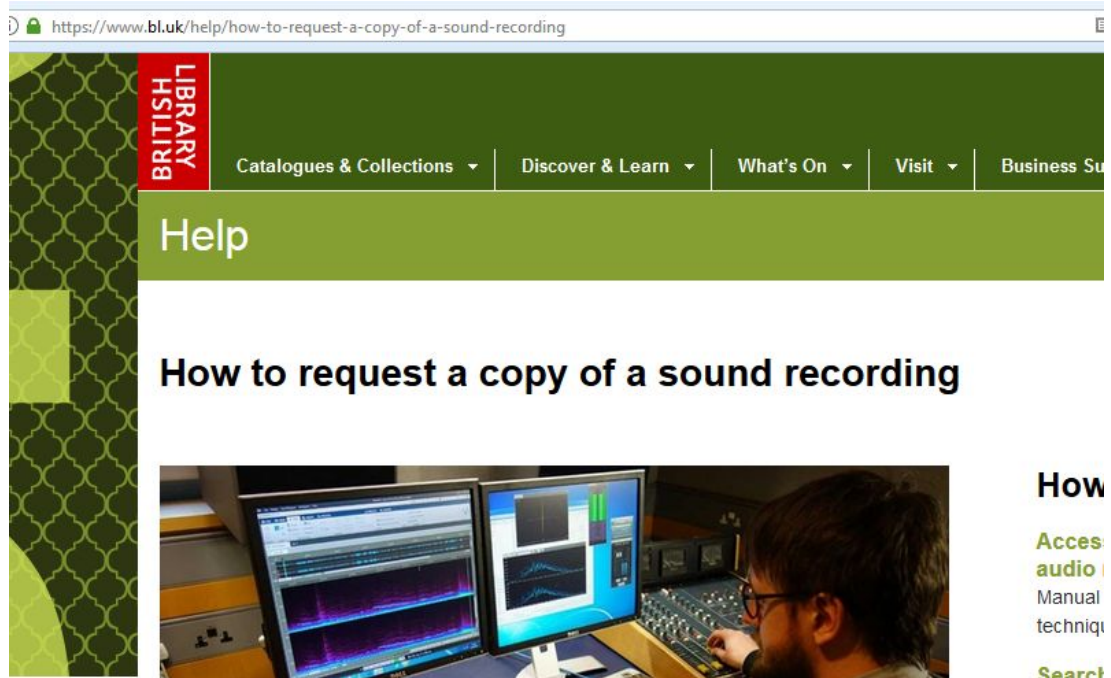
Paulīne : polka



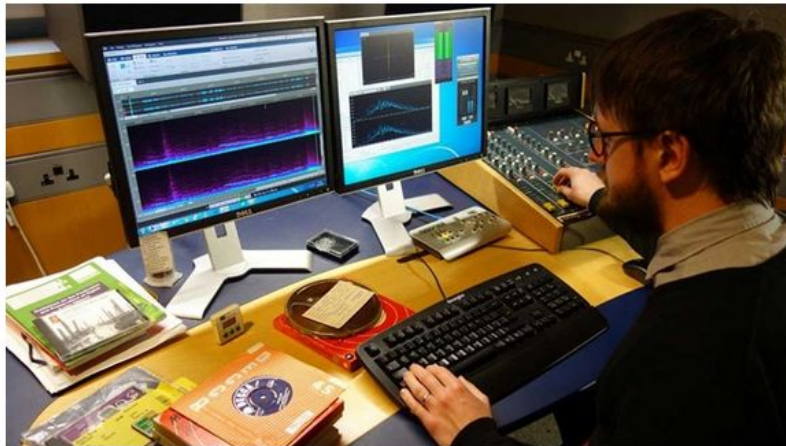
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# Providing access



## How to request a copy of a sound recording



The Library can provide copies of recordings held in the collections to users who are able to obtain the appropriate copyright clearance. This is a charged service. Please read the information below before submitting an application.

Published date: 10 March 2017

### Copyright

You must obtain permission from the copyright holder(s) before a request for a sound

- Copying service
- Sound & Moving Image Catalogue  
<http://sami.bl.uk/>

### How

**Access audio**  
Manual techniques

**Search record**  
A guide to recording

**How to sound**  
The Library environment collection

**How to Under**  
How to

**Get a Reader**  
A guide to

View



# SOUNDS

Explore 90,000 selected recordings of music, spoken word and human and natural environments

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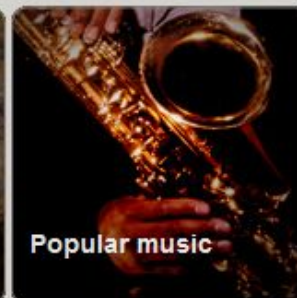
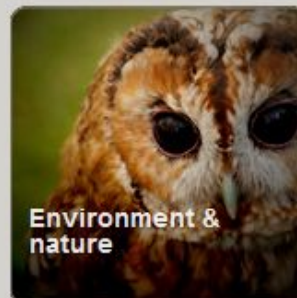
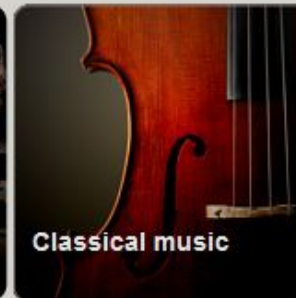
[Radio & sound recording history](#)

[World & traditional music](#)

[Sound maps](#)

## British Library Sounds

Listen to a selection from the British Library's extensive collections of unique sound recordings, which come from all over the world and cover the entire range of recorded sound: music, drama and literature, oral history, wildlife and environmental sounds.



## Search

All categories

Enter keyword

Only recordings by everyone

Search

[Full sound archive](#)








## Most shared

- [Victorian s...](#)
- [Phascolar cinereus : Phascolar](#)
- [Adi Cakob Choir](#)
- [Sciurus ca Grey Squir Sciuridae](#)
- [Conversat \(Caerdydd accent, dia attitudes to](#)

# SoundCloud

## Top played tracks

All time



1		Piano trio in C minor op.1 no.3 / Beethoven (1905)	36,262
2		Barn Owl Screams, Wales, 1988	18,346
3		First known recording of computer music, 1951	13,621
4		Babbling Brook, Cornwall, March 1996	9,155
5		Music from India: Sora ancestor song	7,717
6		Beethoven's tuning fork	7,445
7		Laughing Kookaburras	3,327





# Wikipedia page views

## Views per file

Image	Image title	Views	Used on pages																																													
	<a href="#">Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes)</a> (W1CDR0001529 BD12).ogg	87,650	<table border="1"> <tr><td>enwiki</td><td><a href="#">Red fox</a></td><td>59,755</td></tr> <tr><td>dewiki</td><td><a href="#">Rotfuchs</a></td><td>21,508</td></tr> <tr><td>ukwiki</td><td><a href="#">Лисиця звичайна</a></td><td>2,653</td></tr> <tr><td>srwiki</td><td><a href="#">Дрекавац (митологија)</a></td><td>829</td></tr> <tr><td>thwiki</td><td><a href="#">หมาจิ้งจอกแดง</a></td><td>690</td></tr> <tr><td>hrwiki</td><td><a href="#">Drekavac (mitologija)</a></td><td>632</td></tr> <tr><td>lvwiki</td><td><a href="#">Rudā lapsa</a></td><td>472</td></tr> <tr><td>kowiki</td><td><a href="#">붉은여우</a></td><td>385</td></tr> <tr><td>cawiki</td><td><a href="#">Guineu roja</a></td><td>316</td></tr> <tr><td>viwiki</td><td><a href="#">Cáo đỏ</a></td><td>258</td></tr> <tr><td>chrwiki</td><td><a href="#">ᄒᄂᄃᄆ</a></td><td>43</td></tr> <tr><td>euwiki</td><td><a href="#">Azeri arrunt</a></td><td>32</td></tr> <tr><td>wikidatawiki</td><td><a href="#">Q8332</a></td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>iawiki</td><td><a href="#">Vulpes vulpes</a></td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>shwiki</td><td><a href="#">Drekavac (mitologija)</a></td><td>24</td></tr> </table>	enwiki	<a href="#">Red fox</a>	59,755	dewiki	<a href="#">Rotfuchs</a>	21,508	ukwiki	<a href="#">Лисиця звичайна</a>	2,653	srwiki	<a href="#">Дрекавац (митологија)</a>	829	thwiki	<a href="#">หมาจิ้งจอกแดง</a>	690	hrwiki	<a href="#">Drekavac (mitologija)</a>	632	lvwiki	<a href="#">Rudā lapsa</a>	472	kowiki	<a href="#">붉은여우</a>	385	cawiki	<a href="#">Guineu roja</a>	316	viwiki	<a href="#">Cáo đỏ</a>	258	chrwiki	<a href="#">ᄒᄂᄃᄆ</a>	43	euwiki	<a href="#">Azeri arrunt</a>	32	wikidatawiki	<a href="#">Q8332</a>	28	iawiki	<a href="#">Vulpes vulpes</a>	25	shwiki	<a href="#">Drekavac (mitologija)</a>	24
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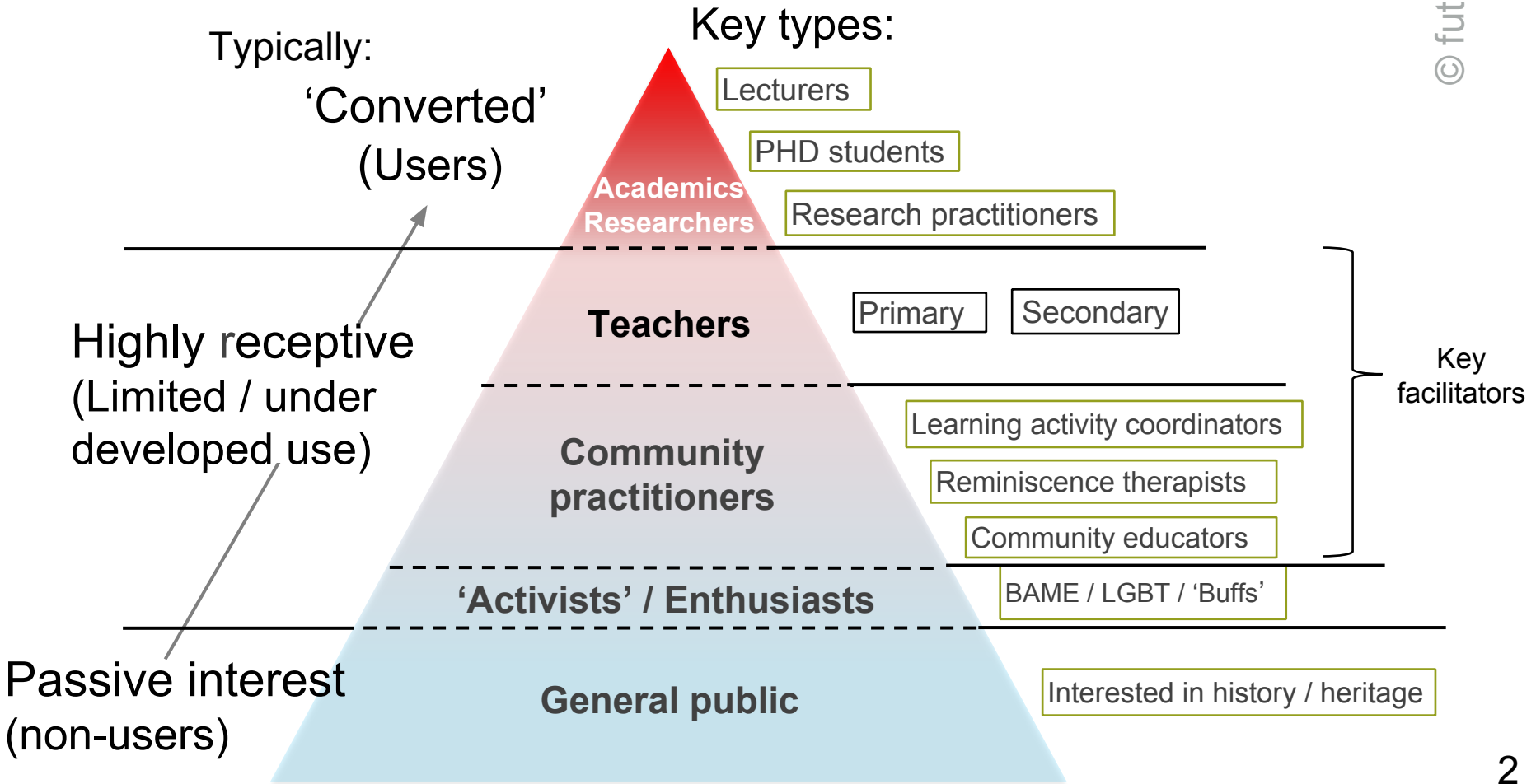
# Unlocking our Sound Heritage project

- 2017-2022. Funded by UK's National Lottery
- Lead by British Library (BL), with 10 UK partners
- Aims :
  - Transform access to and preserve the UK's most vulnerable and at-risk audio heritage
  - Raise awareness of the importance and value of the nation's sound heritage
  - Create sustainable centres of excellence in digital audio preservation around the UK
  - Involve new audiences in engaging with their audio heritage in innovative ways
- Digitised items & metadata stored and accessed from BL

# The 'hub' partners working with BL



# Expected audiences





## Sounds

[Home](#) [Interviews](#) [Themes](#) [Disciplines](#) [About the project](#) [Project outputs](#) [Further resources](#)

## Map

## Story of Skiffle Jazz in Liverpool

A promenade in Liverpool which reveals how teenagers were swept up by the music after hearing Lonnie Donegan's Rock Island Line.

**The Cavern Club**

8:23



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**Eric's Club**

8:23



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***Thanks for listening!***

richard.ranft@bl.uk

<http://sounds.bl.uk>

[www.bl.uk/save-our-sounds](http://www.bl.uk/save-our-sounds)

@soundarchive